

MARTYRS TO THE TRUTH.

ACCORDING to the history of the Church, the martyrs to the truth of this dispensation number about forty. But this statement applies to those whose blood has been shed for the testimony of Jesus, and has no reference to the many hundreds whose lives have been sacrificed through the hardships and exposure to which the Saints were subjected in the early days of the Church. In this connection it is estimated that not less than three hundred of the Saints lost their lives from these causes in the Missouri persecutions alone. The deaths of quite a number are also traceable indirectly to the crusade carried on during the last few years.

On March 25th, 1832, Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon were dragged from their beds at midnight in the town of Hiram, Portage County, Ohio, daubed with tar and feathers, and severely injured. Aquafortis was poured into President Joseph Smith's mouth, and he was held by the throat until left for dead. One of his children, who was sick with measles, and in bed with him at the time of the outrage, was thereby exposed to the night air, and died almost immediately. She may therefore be called "the first martyr of this dispensation." But the first man whose blood was shed for the Gospel's sake was Brother Andrew Barber, who was shot and killed in a skirmish which occurred between a company of Saints and a mob several miles west of the Big Blue, in Jackson County, on Nov. 14th, 1833. In this engagement two of the mobbers were killed, and several were wounded on both sides.

On October 25th, 1838, a battle was fought between a mob and about seventy-five brethren on Crooked River, Caldwell Co., Mo. In this Gideon Carter was killed, and eleven others wounded. Among them were Apostle David W. Patten and Patrick O. Bannion, who died soon afterwards.

Five days after this memorable battle the Haun's Mill massacre took place, in which eighteen or nineteen defenceless Saints were inhumanly butchered by a mob. The names of those whose lives were sacrificed upon that occasion, as far as obtainable, are Thomas McBride, Levi N. Merrick, Elias Benner, Josiah Fuller, Benjamin Lewis, Alexander Campbell, Warren Smith, Sardius Smith, George S. Richards, Wm. Napier, Augustine Harmer,

Simon Cox, Hiram Abbott, John York, Charles Merrick, John Lee and John Byers. And among the wounded who subsequently recovered were Isaac Laney, Nathaniel K. Knight, Wm. Yokum, Jacob and George Myers, Tarlton Lewis, Jacob Haun, Jacob Fontz, Jacob Potts, Charles Jimison, John Walker, Alma Smith, and Miss Mary Stedwell, who was shot through the hand while endeavoring to escape.

The details of the martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch Joseph and Hyrum Smith are so well known to the Latter-day Saints as to need no description here. I will therefore briefly mention that on June 27th, 1844, at about 5:20 p. m., an armed mob with blackened faces surrounded and entered the Carthage jail and cruelly and deliberately murdered Joseph and Hyrum Smith in cold blood, while John Taylor was badly wounded, and Willard Richards received a slight wound on the ear. This diabolical deed was perpetrated at the time when Governor Ford had pledged his word that the brethren should be protected.

The next martyr in the course of this narrative was Edmund Durfee, who was killed by a mob in Green Plains, Hancock County, Ill., in November, 1845. About the same time, Joshua Smith was poisoned in Carthage.

On September 12th, 1846, the so-called battle of Nauvoo took place. Wm. Anderson, his son Augustus, and Isaac Norris were slaughtered, while others among the defenders were wounded. The mobbers who were driven back also sustained considerable loss.

In May, 1857, while Apostle Parley P. Pratt was on his way from St. Louis to Arkansas, he was followed by three blood-thirsty wretches (one of whom was Hector H. McLean), who had previously declared their intention of killing him. To aid them in their sanguinary design they preferred fictitious charges against him, but from these he was honorably discharged by a United States Court, at Van Buren. These assassins there followed him and murdered him in cold blood near Van Buren, Arkansas, on May 13th, 1857.

Reference must now be made to the martyrdom of missionaries, which of recent years has presented some remarkable examples of courage and devotion in meeting death for the sake of truth and righteousness.

On July 21st, 1879, Joseph Standing, while performing a second mission to the Southern States, was way-

aid and brutally murdered by an armed mob near Varnells Station, Whitfield County, Georgia. His companion, Rudger Clawson, through the providence of God, escaped the fury of the mob, and was permitted to return home with the body.

On August 10th, 1884, there was enacted one of the most shameful and inhuman acts that has ever been recorded in the history of the Church, in the murder of Elders Wm. S. Berry, of Kanarra; John H. Gibbs, of Paradise; and Brothers Martin Conder and John R. Hudson, of Tennessee. Sister Conder, mother of the two last-named, was also severely wounded; and David Hinson, leader of the mob, was killed. This occurred at the residence of Mr. Conder, on Cane Creek, Lewis County, Tennessee.

The last martyr of this dispensation of whom we have reliable account was Edward M. Dalton, who was murdered by Deputy-Marshal Wm. Thompson, junr., while riding peacefully through the streets of Parowan, Iron County, on December 16, 1886. Yet in all probability the number of martyrs has been augmented by the mysterious disappearance of Elder Alma P. Richards, of Milton, Morgan County, who, while laboring recently as a missionary in the Southern States, was undoubtedly waylaid and murdered by a mob near Meridian, Miss., on August 2, 1888.

In conclusion, it may be stated that while the above includes all the actual martyrs in the history of the Latter-day Saints, there are a number of instances wherein the servants of God, although seriously wounded, were, through the power and blessings of God manifested in their behalf, restored to life and health, and permitted to live for many years. In a few instances the survivors are living to-day, and these are properly entitled to the honor of being called living martyrs to the truth. Among them I would make special mention of Bro. Philo Dibble (now a resident of Springfield), who was fatally shot in the stomach in the engagement with the mob near the Big Blue, in Jackson County, on November 4, 1833; and of Isaac Laney and Alma Smith, who were dangerously wounded at the massacre at Haun's Mill, in which the first-named was literally riddled with bullets, while almost the entire hip of the latter was shot away. These brethren, through the power of God, recovered and lived more than thirty-five years afterwards. Elder Laney died in this